(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a draft proposal demanding Rs. 23662.811 lakhs has been received for approval from the Government of Uttar Pradesh under this scheme;

(d) if so, the amount released so far to the State Government under the said scheme; and

(e) by when the remaining amount is likely to be allocated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Post Matric scholarships are already being provided to Scheduled Caste students.

(b) The details of the scheme are given in the Annual Report 2004-05 of this Ministry.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The proposal was received during the year 2004-05 against which an amount of Rs. 5937.70 lakh was released after adjusting the unspent balance of Rs. 4278.89 lakh available with the State Government at the end of the year 2003-04. Further an amount of Rs. 3922.00 lakh has also been released to the State Government in July, 2005.

Abuse of minors in remand homes

2768. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the incidents of abuse of minors in the remand homes in Delhi and other States; and

(b) if so, the action taken to make such homes safe from juvenile offenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed about a case of alleged abuse in one of their observation homes. No such incident has been reported by any other State Government.

(b) Actions taken to make homes safe *inter-alia* are provision of adequate staff, their training and sensitisation, security measures, counseling of children and age appropriate separate housing of juveniles.

Centres for mentally retarded persons

2769. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of centres for mentally retarded persons in the country as on date;

(b) whether this number is sufficient to meet the requirements of the mentally retarded persons; and

(c) if not, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The Government has enacted the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999. The National Trust, set up under the said Act, is providing financial assistance for running 113 Care Centres.

The National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped (NIMH), set up in 1984, *inter-alia,* provides training to rehabilitation professionals and parents.

Under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme of the Ministry, 342 Non-Governmental Organisations are receiving grant-in-aid for running special schools, vocational training centres, early intervention programme, community based rehabilitation programme, etc., for mentally challenged persons.

(b) and (c) Every year proposals for new centres, received from un-serviced areas, are being sanctioned keeping in view the technical feasibility of the projects and availability of funds. However, the Central Government Schemes only supplement the welfare programmes of the State Governments including those for mentally retarded persons.